

**VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY  
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.**

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER** - The monthly meeting of the City Council of the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, a Michigan City was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at the Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Kedzierski.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ROLL CALL** – Clerk Bruce Nichols

Present: Mayor Thaddeus Kedzierski, Robert H. Barrette, Sandra Cavataio, John Dakmak, Danielle Gehlert, Donn Schroder, John T. Seago

Absent: None

Also present: City Clerk Bruce Nichols  
Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles  
City Manager Stephen Poloni  
City Attorney Brian Renaud  
Public Works Director Mike Way  
Public Safety Director Ken Werenski

**4. SETTING OF THE AGENDA** – Item 8.A2(a) Mid-Year Budget Amendments was added.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2022 REGULAR MEETING**

On motion by Council Member Seago, seconded by Council Member Schroder, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the minutes were approved.

**6. RECEIVE AND FILE VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS MINUTES**

On motion by Council Member Schroder, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the minutes were received and filed.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS** - None

**8. REPORTS BY CHAIRPERSONS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS**

- A. Budget and Finance** – Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles reported payments were issued to residents who were successful in their property tax appeals before the Board of Review. There was also a large payment to HRC for Engineering Services.

1. *Approval of Bills* - On motion by Council Member Seago, seconded by Council Member Cavataio, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the bills were

approved for payment.

2. *Review of Financial Statements* - Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles presented the Financial Statements for review by Council.

(a) Mid-Year Budget Amendments - Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles presented the proposed budget amendments with indications of changes in each category. The various line-item expenses in the budget amendments were discussed. The use of *Federal ARPA Stimulus Funds* was also reviewed and discussed. Council Member Schroder had questions regarding allocations of overtime in the budget.

On motion by Council Member Barrette, seconded by Council Member Gehlert, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the proposed Mid-Year Budget Amendments were approved.

3. *Finance Committee Chairman Report*. Chair Sandra Cavataio discussed why the savings from the change of retiree benefits was different than projected. While the savings were less than anticipated, savings were still realized in the expense of the retiree benefits program. A savings increase in retiree benefits will grow in the future as many retirees move into Medicare eligibility. As medical costs will increase due to inflationary pressure, additional savings will also result in the future. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for March 8 at 10 AM.

- B. Public Safety** – Chief Kenneth Werenski informed Council that the newly recruited Public Safety Officers are doing very well. Both are expected to be on full solo duty in the very near future. The city also has another candidate for Public Safety Officer in process. The Chief thanked retired Lieut. Doug Frazier for his exemplary service to the city during his 25-year tenure. The Chief then presented the *2021 Summary of Violations* issued which showed an uptick resulting from our Public Safety Officers' determined efforts at patrolling the city. He also expressed appreciation to City Manager Poloni for his efforts in obtaining grant funds for use by the Department of Public Safety.

Council Member Seago had questions regarding enforcement of sidewalk snow removal at the street corners.

Council Member Schroder expressed appreciation for the dedication of the officers in the Department of Public Safety. Their efforts and hard work gives the residents a sense of security while living in the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores.

- C. Public Works** – Director Mike Way addressed issues regarding snow removal at the corner lots. He stated it is ultimately the responsibility of those homeowners on the corner lots to remove snow and ice from the sidewalks.

During the previous month, the city experienced a water main break, and seven road salt spreads. The ice rink was made unusable by a freeze/thaw/snow cycle. Seawall sheeting has been installed at the park. Tree removal at the park is also underway. DTE has been making aggressive efforts at tree trimming to prevent limbs from falling

on power lines. Director Way presented a Lake St. Clair water level report indicating an approximate 4-foot drop in water levels. Council Member Gehlert asked about the capacity of fuel tanks located at the municipal parking lot.

- D. Parks Committee** – Council Liaison Donn Schroder reported the last meeting of the committee was held in January. At that meeting, the members discussed expanded food options at the park, a pickle ball tournament, and a possible basketball tournament.. The annual Fourth of July celebration at the park is still planned.
- E. Harbor Committee** – Council Liaison John Seago reported the next meeting of the committee is scheduled to be in March.
- F. Infrastructure Report** – Council Liaison Robert Barrette informed Council that the Oxford Road and Lake Shore projects are beginning to receive bids for construction. The seawall situation has received some attention from Wayne County. The lower water level of Lake St. Clair has helped slow the deterioration of the seawall. City Manager Poloni indicated the scheduling of the projects will become clearer as the bids from the contractors are presented.
- G. GPSIF** – Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert informed Council that the next meeting of the Foundation is scheduled for March 21, 2021 at 7 PM.
- H. Communications Committee** – Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert said funding of the committee is still pending with the upcoming budget.
- I. Legal Report** – City Attorney Brian Renaud reported on having provided the following legal services since the last meeting of Council:
- The monitoring of several Public Safety Department issues, consultation regarding closed sessions, review of an Atty. Gen. opinion regarding the *Open Meetings Act* and the *Federal Disability Act (ADA)*.
- J. Manager's Report** – City Manager Steve Poloni recently attended a Michigan Municipal League meeting. In addition to discussing a “claw back” of funding resulting from a reduced population count in our last census, there appears to be a revenue-sharing aspect in Gov. Witmer’s proposed state budget. Approximately \$6 billion in proposed budget money may be available to fund a portion of the upcoming pump station project. City Manager Poloni has been exploring grant money for the purchase of a new garbage truck. Website training is upcoming for administrative staff in anticipation of the new website rollout. Consideration is being given to the expansion of additional road projects due to the absorption of the equipment mobilization costs into the expansion. Federal funding of the seawall repairs is being reviewed. The appeal of the Federal Census is underway. There has been a significant decrease in Southeast Michigan Disposal Authority surcharges occasioned by remedial steps being taken by our city. The Hawthorne Road project needs priority repairs to underground drainage.

Public Works Director Way said a comprehensive report from HRC regarding the extent of storm and sanitary sewer repairs is forthcoming

**9. OLD BUSINESS - None**

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

***A. Proposed Water Usage Ordinance Discussion***

City Manager Steve Poloni said Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) will look favorably in negotiating a water rate reduction if a water usage ordinance was adopted. Issues of enforcement of a water usage ordinance were discussed. Director Way also expressed his opinion confirming that a water usage ordinance will go toward the reduction of peak usage charges from GLWA. Manager Poloni indicated the time periods for watering are critical, not the amount of water used in any non-peak time period. The Council concurred there must be an economic gain to the residents if some type of water usage ordinance was adopted.

***B. 2022 Poverty Exemption Policies & Guidelines Resolution***

On motion by Council Member Cavataio, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the 2022 Poverty Exemption Policies and Guidelines were adopted in accordance with those recommended by the administrative staff.

***C. Comerica Bank Signature Authorization Update***

On motion by Council Member Cavataio, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the Comerica Bank Signature Authorization Update was authorized and resolved.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None**

**12. COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Council Member Seago thanked Public Works Director Mike Way for his efforts.

Council Member Dakmak urged residents to get their Park Pass applications in to assist in our Census appeal.

Council Member Schroder expressed appreciation to Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles for the clarity of her financial reports.

**13. MAYOR'S COMMENTS –** Mayor Kedzierski expressed great anticipation with the resumption of the upcoming Town Hall Meetings. The Mayor felt the Town Hall Meetings provide good ideas and feedback from residents regarding the planning of park events and enhanced usage of the municipal Park. The Mayor also expressed that he was pleased with the direction the city is going, and the effectiveness of the administrative staff.

**14. MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION UNDER SECTION (h) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT**

1. To Discuss Litigation Matters
2. To Discuss Employment Matters

Pursuant to a roll call vote, and carried unanimously, Council adjourned into Closed Session at 8:31 PM.

**15. MOTION TO ENTER INTO OPEN SESSION**

On motion by Council Member Schroder, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that Council enter into open session at 9:19 PM.

Council reconvened into open session at 9:20 PM.

Mayor Kedzierski indicated there will be a review of the City Manager's employment during the term of his first year.

**16. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS** (Tues, 3/15/22-7pm & Tues, 4/19/22 -7pm)

**17. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE TOWN HALL MEETINGS** - (Sat, 5/14/22 10am)

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Council Member Barrette, seconded by Council Member Seago, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce R. Nichols  
City Clerk